

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMENDING ALL INVOLVED AND PARTICULARLY THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND THE MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND SUPPORT IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF STORM DAMAGED AND ABANDONED VESSELS AFTER THE 2005 HURRICANE SEASON AND REQUESTING CONTINUED AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DERELICT / ABANDONED VESSELS IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THESE VESSELS AND IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THREATS FROM THESE VESSELS TO LIFE SAFETY AND PROPERTY IN FUTURE STORM SEASONS.**

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**WHEREAS,** Monroe County has consistently had one of the highest occurrences of derelict / abandoned vessels in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS,** Monroe County removes approximately 100 derelict / abandoned vessels annually from the waters and shorelines of the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS,** this continuous effort minimally tracks the creation of new abandoned / derelict vessels and has been insufficient to eliminate these vessels each year; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2005 storm season, particularly the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma left over 400 vessels sunken in surrounding waters or dashed on the shores of the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS,** following the 2005 storm season and through a partnership of FEMA, the State of Florida, and Monroe County with its municipalities, storm damaged vessels and other existing derelict / abandoned vessels have virtually been removed from the waters surrounding the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS,** the appearance, beauty, and aesthetic value of the Florida Keys has been enhanced substantially through this effort; and

**WHEREAS**, boating safety for citizens and visitors to the Florida Keys and protection to shoreline properties has been tremendously increased by this effort; and

**WHEREAS**, an aggressive, continuous, and day to day effort to identify and remove derelict and abandoned vessels would minimize the creation of new derelict / abandoned vessels and future potential storm impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, an aggressive derelict / abandoned vessel program would also remove life-safety threats to the human population, improve environmental health, minimize impacts to the environment, and improve the appearance and aesthetic character of the Florida Keys, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:**

1. thanks is given to all involved with the effort to remove vessels impacted during the 2005 storm season and all other derelict / abandoned vessels removed during the project effort; and
2. particular commendation is made for the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in its aggressive effort to identify and complete "due diligence" requirements for all vessels removed; and
3. these agencies are asked to continue aggressive actions which would maintain the level of effort required to eliminate derelict / abandoned vessels from the waters of the Florida Keys, including
  - a. heightened day to day focus on the derelict / abandoned vessel issue, and
  - b. training of all waters officers in the requirements for identifying and authorizing the removal of derelict / abandoned vessel; and
  - c. direction to water officers that writing derelict / abandoned vessel reports and citations is an essential part of their duties.
4. this Resolution is provided to all agencies and entities involved in the effort to remove vessels after the 2005 storm season, particularly the FWC and MCSO.

Commissioner Neugent

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners,  
Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of October, A.D., 2006.

Mayor Dixie Spehar \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem Charles "Sonny" McCoy \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner George Neugent \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Di Gennaro \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Glenn Patton \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR/CHAIR PERSON

(SEAL)

ATTEST: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, CLERK

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE